Missions - Japan

ANNUAL SURVEY

of the Work of the

American Board's Japan Mission

in connection with the

Kumiai Churches of Japan

1902-1903

A Special Edition

of

MISSION NEWS

June 27, 1903

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NOTES.

The Editor desires to thank a correspondent, who declines to allow his name to be published, for the carefully prepared summary of the work of the year which constitutes the bulk of this number of MISSION NEWS.

* * * *

The Rev. Geo. F. Pentecost began his work in Tokyo with a service at the Union Church on Sunday, June seventh, followed by a sermon in the evening at the hall of the Y. M. C. A. The plan contemplated two meetings a day for fifteen days, with the exception of two rest days, at various churches and halls; but it was necessary to limit the number to one each day after the first week. The strain of the many months spent in the Philippines, China, and Japan has sadly worn upon Dr. Pentecost, for he has given himself without reserve. The audiences have not been as large as we had hoped, though they have been good, especially when it is remembered that this visit coincides with the time when students, who always form the larger portion of the audiences, are preparing for examinations. The attention has been excellent and it is believed that a deep and lasting impression has been made.

* * * *

Rev. Frank A. Lombard returned to America by the S. S. "Empress of China," June 4th. Hilton Pedley accompanied him. Mr. Lombard's address is Sutton, Mass.

* * * *

Rev. and Mrs. G. M. Rowland, with their family sailed from Otaru for Vladivostock, *en route* for New England, via the Siberian Railway June 7th. Their address will be care of F. H. Wiggin, Esq., Treas., 14 Beacon Street, Boston.

* * * *

The attention of our readers is called to the advertisement of the translation of Prof. G. H. Palmer's "The Field of Ethics," and that of Dr. Davis' new edition of his Life of Dr. Neesima (in Japanese) which appear in our advertising columns. Each in its own way is of great value and should have a wide circulation.

MISSION NEWS.

A JOURNAL OF RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL PROGRESS; WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE WORK OF THE AMERICAN BOARD IN JAPAN.

（明治三十三年十月十二日第三種郵便物認可　毎月一回第四土曜日發行）

Vol. VI. YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, SATURDAY, JUNE 27th, 1903. No. 9.

ANNUAL SURVEY OF THE WORK OF THE AMERICAN BOARD'S MISSION IN CONNECTION WITH THE KUMIAI CHURCHES OF JAPAN, JUNE, 1903.

There is a difficulty in writing such a survey arising from the fact that all the especially interesting events of the year have already been published and it would be a waste of space to reprint them, and yet a report of the year without them is liable to be like a rice pudding without the raisins and condiments. Still it seems to be desirable to give a general and connected view of the whole work of the year and, it need not be said, the importance and value of a work do not depend upon the number of striking incidents which have occurred.

In the lists of missionaries only those are mentioned who have been on the field during at least some part of the past year, and, in accordance with the vote of the mission, all honorary titles are omitted.

UNION WORK.

Besides the preparation of Sunday school helps, which has been continued in co-operation with the Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians, and in which our mission has been represented by Mr. Lombard and Miss Adams, and the co-operation of individual members of the mission with those of other missions in Christian Endeavor, temperance, reform, and such lines of work, there have been two pieces of union effort during the year which deserve especial mention.

One is the preparation of the new hymn-book which is to be used by all churches except the Episcopal, and 125 hymns of which (with

their tunes) are also in the Episcopal hymn-book. The printing of this book has been going on during the year and is now so far advanced that its publication is announced for Oct. 1. Parallel editions are to be printed simultaneously, by the Methodist Publishing House, and by a Japanese firm in Yokohama. Mr. Allchin has made the overseeing of this work his main business during the past year. As it is fifteen years since the book now in use was issued, the publication of this new one will be quite an event for the Japanese churches, and it may be hoped that it will be a great help to their worship.

The other is the union evangelistic work which is being carried on this spring at the National Exhibition in Osaka under the charge of a committee appointed by the Association of Missionaries of Central Japan. A Gospel Hall has been opened together with a Bible store just opposite the main entrance to the grounds of the Exhibition, and services are carried on under the care of Baptists, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Methodists, and Presbyterians, each denomination having the responsibility during two periods of two weeks each, after joint work during the first ten days. Services are held morning, afternoon, and evening, and the meetings have been thronged with attentive listeners. During the first turn of the Congregationalists the wide-awake evangelist, Mr. Kimura, who was trained at the Chicago Institute, was in charge, with Mr. Mitani to help in the music, and the available preachers were all called into service. Over twenty-one thousand people were counted as listeners during this fortnight and over thirteen hundred handed in their names and addresses as wishing to inquire further into Christianity. These names have been reported as far as possible to churches and missionaries in the vicinity of each one's place of residence. Work is also carried on not far away by the Women's Christian Temperance Union with which a large part of the mission ladies are connected.

Mention may be made here of the work of Drs. C. C. Hall and G. F. Pentecost both of whom have visited several of our fields during the past spring.

Dr. Hall spent five weeks in Japan early in the spring, and visited Kyoto, Kobe, Okayama, Osaka, Tokyo, and Sendai to the great delight and profit of hundreds of hearers in each place. His irenic attitude disarmed criticism, while the combination of great earnestness with unwavering candor made a deep impression upon all who heard him. In Okayama he was given the first reception in full foreign style

ever extended to a foreign guest, the mayor and the principal of the High School assisting the missionary in presenting the invited guests to the lecturer. At Sendai the city authorities were given the opportunity of taking charge of his work, and they responded with the greatest enthusiasm. The College Hall, seating a thousand people, was fitted up with electric lights, and the lectures were delivered to audiences of educators, officials, lawyers, and others, including their wives, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen including the Governor and Mayor went to the midnight train to bid their guest farewell.

Dr. Geo. F. Pentecost is now in the midst of his work in Japan, which will include Maebashi in addition to the places just named. He has spoken with great acceptance, but his work hardly comes within the range of this year's report.

Although not exactly union work, mention may also be made here of Dr. Doremus Scudder, who has visited a great part of our field in preparation for his work for Japanese in the Hawaiian Islands.

THE TWELVE STATIONS.

KOBE.

The mission's mother-station; the port of a large part of the mission; the seat of its chief educational work for young women.

Rev. John L. Atkinson.
Mrs. Caroline G. Atkinson.
Miss Martha J. Barrows.
Miss Ada B. Chandler.
Miss Gertrude Cozad (till December).
Miss Mary A. Holbrook.
Rev. Arthur W. Stanford.
Mrs. Jennie P. Stanford.
Miss Olive S. Hoyt (in Maebashi for study).
Miss Cora F. Keith (in Maebashi for study most of the year).
Miss Susan A. Searle.
Miss Eliza Talcott.
Miss Elizabeth Torrey.

Population of field over 1,700,000. Four independent and five aided churches; Kobe College; the Woman's Evangelistic School; Glory Kindergarten Training School; the monthly paper, Morning Light.

Kyoto.

The ancient capital; 27 miles up the river from Osaka; 47 from Kobe; seat of the educational work for young men.

Rev. Geo. E. Albrecht.
Rev. Otis Cary.
Mrs. Ellen M. Cary.
Rev. Jerome D. Davis.
Mrs. Frances H. Davis.
Rev. Dwight W. Learned.
Mrs. Florence H. Learned.
Rev. Frank A. Lombard.
Miss Mary F. Denton.
Mrs. Agnes D. Gordon.

Population of the field about 1,650,000; seven independent and seven aided churches; the Doshisha Schools; the Airin and Imadegawa kindergartens.

Maebashi.

The capital of the province of Joshu, 70 miles northwest of Tōkyō; one of the great centers of the silk industry.

Rev. Hilton Pedley. Mrs. Martha J. Pedley.
Miss Fanny E. Griswold.

Population of the field 800,000; five independent and four aided churches; a girl's school; a kindergarten; an orphan asylum.

Matsuyama.

The capital of the province of Iyo on the north coast of Shikoku and south side of the Inland Sea; 180 miles west of Kobe.

Rev. Sidney L. Gulick.
Mrs. Cara F. Gulick.
Miss H. Frances Parmelee.
Miss Cornelia Judson
(residing in Uwajima at the west end of the island.)

Three independent and four aided churches; one girls' school; one industrial school. Population of the field, 1,700,000.

Miyazaki.

The prefectural town of the province of Hyuga on the west side of Kyushu; 300 miles west of Kobe.

Rev. Cyrus A. Clark. Miss Julia A. E. Gulick.

One independent and one aided church; population of the field about 500,000.

NIIGATA.

The capital of the large province of Echigo on the west coast; 170 miles from Tokyo.

Rev. Horatio B. Newell.
Mrs. Jane C. Newell.
Miss Clara L. Brown.
Rev. William L. Curtis.
Mrs. Gertrude B. Curtis.
Miss E. Pauline Swartz (till January)

One independent and one aided church; population of the field 1,800,000.

OKAYAMA-TSUYAMA.

Okayama the capital of the province of Bizen, on the north coast of the Inland Sea, 90 miles west of Kobe. Tsuyama in the interior of the same province, the chief town of Mimasaka province, 35 miles north.

OKAYAMA.

Rev. James H. Pettee.
Mrs. Belle W. Pettee.
Miss Alice Pettee Adams.
Miss Mary E. Wainwright.

TSUYAMA.

Rev. Schuyler S. White.
Mrs. Ida M. White.

Three independent and five aided churches; one orphan asylum; one school for poor children. Population of the field, 1,200,000.

OSAKA.

The great commercial and manufacturing city; the center of the organisation of the Kumiai churches; 20 miles east of Kobe.

Rev. Geo. Allchin (in Yokohama during most of the year in connection with the publication of the hymn-book).
Wallace Taylor, M.D.
Miss Lucy E. Case.
Miss Abby M. Colby.
Miss Mary B. Daniels.

Five independent and four aided churches; the Baikwa Girls' School; the Christian World (the organ of the Kumiai churches).

SAPPORO.

The political capital of the northern island, Hokkaido.

Rev. Geo. M. Rowland.
Mrs. Helen A. Rowland.
Rev. Enoch F. Bell.
Mrs. Anna E. Bell.
Miss M. Adelaide Daughaday.

Three independent and two aided churches. Population of the island about one million.

SENDAI.

The chief city on the northeast coast; 200 miles north of Tokyo.

Rev. John H. DeForest. Mrs. Elisabeth S. DeForest.
Miss Annie H. Bradshaw.

Three aided churches.

TOKYO.

The center of all Japan; seat of the Mission's publication work and of the co-operative work of the missions.

Rev. D. Crosby Greene. Mrs. Mary J. Greene.

Three independent churches and three congregations aided by the Japanese Home Missionary Society.

TOTTORI.

Near the shore of the Japan Sea; 80 miles north of Okayama.

Rev. Samuel C. Bartlett. Mrs. Fanny S. Bartlett.
Rev. Henry J. Bennett.

One independent church.

Additions to the mission force during the year have been:

Miss Olive S. Hoyt ... ... October.
Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Bell ... ... November.
Mrs. M. D. Dunning ... ... December.
Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Olds ... ... June.

Returned from furlough:

Miss Susan A. Searle ... ... September.
Miss Clara L. Brown ... ... November.
Miss Eliza Talcott ... ... December.

Departed:

Miss Cora McCandlish ... ... July.
Miss Gertrude Cozad ... ... December.
Miss E, Pauline Swartz ... ... January.
Rev. John H. DeForest ... ... June.
Rev. and Mrs. Geo. M. Rowland ... ... June.
Rev. Frank A. Lombard ... ... June.

Total number of the mission now in Japan, 61.

The Japanese Home Missionary Society has planted churches at Hakodate, Yokohama, Nagoya, Fukui, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, and during the past year has opened a new chapel in Tokyo.

GENERAL WORK.

Kobe.

The rapid growth of the business and population of the city of Kobe (274,000 at the end of 1902) and the establishment by the government of various schools of high grade result in the presence of a very large number of intelligent people, especially of active young men, who are largely open to new influences and who furnish a most inviting field for Christian work. The three self-supporting Kumiai churches and the one which is advancing towards self-support are all doing good work. One feature of work here, which has been continued for twenty-six years, is the division of the membership of the churches into sections, each meeting under its own leader weekly for prayer and Bible study, as a means for facilitating the training of the Christians and for drawing in new inquirers. Apart from Dr. Hall's lectures there seems to have been little in the way of special events during the year.

In the country towns there is less intellectual movement, and old prejudices and conservatism are still very strong, so that the progress of the five country churches (one of them independent) is slow. Eighteen out stations are regularly visited by evangelists. The aided places have contributed a little over half as much money as the station paid for evangelistic work.

Kyoto.

The University, College, and other educational institutions of high grade draw to Kyoto a large number of young men, and the station has had great pleasure in uniting with other missions in welcoming Mr. G. S. Phelps who has been sent by the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A. to aid in work for young men. Not only in the Doshisha but also in some other schools there are societies connected with the Japan Union, and so with the World's Federation, and there is now a movement for forming a city association.

In the city the events of the year have been the going to America for study of Mr. Aburatani, pastor of the Fourth Church, which is temporarily a great loss not only to that church but to the whole city; the purchase and fitting up (with funds privately advanced) of a building for the Shinai Sunday school under the care of Mrs. Cary; and the removal of the Nishijin chapel to what is considered a better location. In the city, besides the Doshisha church, there are one aided and three independent churches, two chapels, one other Sunday school, and one Bible store and street-side preaching place.

Outside of the city on the lake to the east are two independent and two aided churches, one of which (Otsu) has a new evangelist and brighter prospects than for a number of years; on the west are one independent and three aided churches, of which that at Amarube (the town which is fast growing up in connection with the new naval station) shows the most encouraging work of all aided by the station.

Maebashi.

During the year the Tomioka church has become self-supporting; a pastor has been ordained over the Haraichi church; and the general church life has been more active than for many years. Of the aided churches, Fujioka reports a large increase in membership drawn chiefly from young people; the work at Sano has taken on new life through the location of an evangelist there; and Numata reports steady growth in membership and church attendance.

The orphan asylum has 39 children and 1,250 regular contributors with a monthly income of *yen* 180. The Young Men's Club furnishes a reading room for young men and carries on a night school with about fifty students in which Mr. Pedley assists.

Mention deserves to be made of the union meeting of all Christian workers in the province, representing four denominations, which is held for two days in May at Ikao. The Woman's Temperance Society is carried on with unabated zeal, drawing its membership from all over the province.

Matsuyama.

This station has enjoyed a year of more than usual activity and especial attention is called to Mr. Kimura's evangelistic campaign of two weeks in October. Besides the regular church services, the Girls'

School, and preaching in the prison, the work of the station has included a night and industrial school, the factory girls' home, the Komachi chapel, the English night school and lectures for young men, the students' Christian Association, the Boys' Club, and women's meetings and cooking classes. Mr. Ninomiya, who had been pastor for eighteen years, has resigned in order to open a new work under the Missionary Society in Tokyo, and the choice of Mr. Tomita as pastor has released Mr. Gulick from the care of the church for which he was responsible for two years in Mr. Ninomiya's a absence.

The new work here is the home for factory girls which has been opened under the immediate care of the earnest Christian, Mr. Omoto, with accommodations for 25 girls. The esteem in which it is held by the authorities is shown by their request that its managers would take charge of all the homes for factory girls. Many parents have also particularly asked that their girls may come to it. Villages in the interior have quite changed their feelings towards Christianity on account of the improvement in character and intelligence which their daughters have made in this home.

At the western end of the field, Uwajima has been favored with Miss Judson's presence and with a visit by Mr. Kimura in January when many new inquirers were gained. At the eastern end, Mr. Kimura's visit to Marugame stirred up the Buddhists to violent opposition which resulted in a signal victory for the Christians. Imabari on the north and Kochi on the south side of the island are the seats of independent churches. The former holds its own in the absence of its pastor in the United States and it has probably the largest Sunday school in Japan; the Kochi church has raised more money than either of the older churches.

Miyazaki.

Touring has been pushed to the extreme limit of financial possibilities, but a good deal has had to be left undone for lack of funds. Increasing attendance at church services and more earnestness in things religious are noticeable at all the places. Sunday schools have become a decidedly more prominent feature of the work than previously; Miyazaki's Sunday school fills the church. An especially noticeable gain is the spirit of earnest inquiry after Christian truth and interest in Bible study. It has been difficult of late to meet the demand. The

pastor of the church in Miyazaki has been away for a year of study, but attendance at church services has increased rather than diminished. Four of the places have made some advance in self-support, especially Miyakonojo where together with the decision of the Christians to increase their gifts has risen a new interest and life in the church.

Niigata.

That the progress is slow in this field is no wonder to any one who knows the condition of society here, where superstition forms the whole spiritual bill of fare, where nearly every vice in the calendar is rampant, where the marital relation is openly disregarded by high and low alike. Perhaps one of the greatest enemies to the progress of the Gospel is licentiousness of which the evidence abounds on every hand. The most thrifty and attractive-looking houses of any of the larger towns are invariably the homes of the demi-monde. The number of girls sold to Tokyo last year from this province for immoral purposes was 5,628 at a cost of *yen*, 742,000. In the southern part of the province, around Nagaoka and Kashiwazaki, the oil and railroad interests have greatly changed the character of the population in the last few years, the new elements being both a help and a hindrance to Christian work, though on the whole helpful as some of the officials of both enterprises are Christian, but the chase for the almighty dollar has turned the thoughts of most men away from religious concerns.

Niigata church became independent in February and Mr. Teraoka has become its pastor, Mr. Newell thus being set free for wider work. Two chapels are maintained in the city, and a monthly magazine is published.

An interesting thing in connection with Nakajo church is that when the reduction of appropriations compelled the resignation of Mr. Higuchi, the evangelist, the inquirers rallied to his support and pledged what was needed to keep him at his post. The Saturday night Bible class is attended by some of the most substantial men of the community. Shibata chapel under Mr. Manabe has taken a good step forward. A large company of young men is now in regular attendance at the chapel services, and about twenty have organised for work among their fellows.

Mr. Newell has given a large part of his time since being released from the care of the Niigata church to touring in the densely

populated and densely superstitious region along the Shinano River. Eight places are visited regularly, of which four have weekly Bible classes, and some interesting developments are now taking place.

Mr. Kimura's work in September was a good tonic for the churches and brought forward a goodly number of inquirers.

Okayama.

All but one of the churches have made a decided advance during the year and are in a very healthy and hopeful condition, that exception being the only pastorless church in the field, and the number of baptisms is the largest since 1890.

Worthy of special mention are the ordination of Mr. Mizoguchi at Takasaki and Mr. Katayama at Amaki, an interesting feature of the latter occasion being the refusal of the council to proceed with the ordination until the church agreed to raise its share of the pastor's stipend above the Mission grant in aid; the dedication of a house of worship free of debt by the Ochiai church; the repair of the Onomichi church; and the taking of long strides towards self-support in both Ochiai and Tsuyama.

Mr. White has done a large amount of country touring over the large district of which Tsuyama is the center, planning to give at least two visits a year to each of twenty or more places, in all of which there are persons interested in hearing about Christianity, and at one of them (Kurashiki) weekly visits are made by Mr. White and his helper. Among those interested are the mayor of the town, the chief of police, and the postmaster.

The Bible evangelistic work, begun during the preceding year, has been continued with encouraging results, ten workers having read the Gospel of Matthew with 118 inquirers of whom one fourth received baptism.

At the orphan asylum it has been a year of exceptional advance and development. By a gift of $5,000. old debts have been paid; ten buildings have been bought or built; 45 children have been received and 34 discharged; the number of sustaining members brought up to 10,265; the institution incorporated.

The houses and a piece of land have been bought for Miss Adams' work for the poor, where are carried on a large Sunday school, a free day school for children of the very poor, evening classes for factory employees and preaching services. The police are enthusiastic admirers

of this slum work and regard it as their most valuable ally in preserving the peace of the city.

Osaka.

The four strong independent churches of this city continue to prosper. Mr. Miyake, the beloved pastor of Temma Church, active leader in Christian Endeavor work, and also Principal of the Baikwa School, entered into rest last summer, and Mr. Osada has succeeded him in both church and school.

The ladies being largely occupied with their work in the school and Mr. Allchin being detained in Yokohama by his work on the hymn-book, the station has been exceedingly weak for evangelistic work, which is greatly to be regretted in view of the immense opportunities afforded by the rapidly growing population of this great city, opportunities which the churches, active as they are, cannot begin to overtake. At the mission chapel, in the rapidly growing part of the city towards the new harbor, a most encouraging feature is the earnestness of the young men who have formed themselves into a band and go out every Sunday evening to advertise the meeting which is always crowded. All the church members here are working people, and there is a large body of inquirers.

The work in the country districts is not so flourishing.

Sapporo.

The Hakodate church, planted by the Missionary Society, has become self-supporting; Sapporo church has outgrown its building and is planning for a stone edifice; the little self-supporting church at Urakawa has lost its pastor who has gone as an evangelist to China; the church at Asahigawa, the military center of the island, has built a church and parsonage; the church at the railroad center, Iwamizawa, has built a parsonage and moved the church building from an out-station to the town (the parish of this church is about 75 miles long); Otaru, the port on the west, is the most rapidly growing city of the island, and the people there are too busy to give much time to Christ's message, but the work is progessing slowly; Immanuel has been nearing self-support, but repeated failure of crops has hindered.

Sendai.

The year has been crowded with work both within and without

the city: never have there been better opportunities for preaching, and never a more generous appreciation of the power and value of the Gospel.

The work in Wakuya, forty miles north of Sendai, one of the most hopeful pieces of work in this field, has been transferred to the station from the Missionary Society, as the Society prefers to work in the great centers where independent churches can be built up most speedily. The reduction of appropriations has compelled a temporary withdrawal from Kitagata, a place in the Aizu valley difficult of access till the railroad reaches it next year. The Christians there offered to pay a third of the evangelist's salary rather than lose him, and it is hoped that means will be provided for re-opening the work next year. Wakamatsu church has made a substantial step towards self-support, reducing the mission grant by one third besides buying land in an excellent location for a church building. It is noteworthy as being the first church in the Empire to receive official permission from the Government to collect money anywhere in Japan for its church building. In five years the number of Christians in the field has increased from 213 to 335, and their contributions from *yen* 450, to *yen* 1,119, besides *yen* 800. for the Wakamatsu church building.

Tokyo.

Kumiai work in this city includes: the two long-established churches self-supporting from the begining; the Hongo church, near the University and especially strong in its pastor's influence over students, which has lately been admitted to the Kumiai body; a preaching place opened last December near the Waseda University, having the use of room rent-free and the preaching done without remuneration, but with results not yet equal to the hopes of those who opened it; and a chapel in the Kyobashi district opened by the Missionary Society early in 1903 from which it is hoped that an independent church will soon be organised.

The church in Yokohama under the Missionary Society is making good progress towards self-support and dedicated a neat church last fall. Mr. Allchin has been of no small service to this church during his stay in Yokohama.

Mr. Greene has, as usual, given much time to committee work besides editing the Fukuin Soshi and the Mission News.

It is becoming clearer from year to year that more systematic efforts should be made to bring the foreign community in such a city as Tokyo into closer touch with the Christians of Japan, and thus to do something to remove the criticisms of missionary work which are current in the foreign community of Japan and which, so far as they are sincere are based on the baldest ignorance, an ignorance which the slightest social contact would dispel, but such efforts require more time and money than the average missionary has at his disposal.

Tottori.

By means of a grant from the reserve fund and private gifts, three men have been added to the working force, but as two of these have only recently arrived, the results of their work cannot yet be reported; but the general atmosphere is one of great gratitude and joyful anticipation. After all the anxiety and perplexity of the past five years the relief is unspeakable. Not only does it mean more men to do the work, but increased efficiency through the stimulus of association.

Since February the church has had no pastor and Mr. Bartlett has served as acting pastor; however it should be borne in mind that this is a self-supporting church.

The girls' school, which was begun even before the opening of the station, was closed last June, and provision was made for the older girls to study in Kyoto. Most of the younger ones entered the public school, where joining a few girls from Christian homes they turned the tide and brought such crowds with them to the Sunshine Society that it was almost swamped. In October the Principal forbade their coming and warned them against all things foreign, religion included, but thirty girls remained loyal, and now the missionaries are growing popular again owing to a speech made in the school by the member of Parliament urging the girls to be progressive and broad-minded.

Mr. Marumo, the devoted evangelist, has become totally blind, and in November he came back to Tottori, where his ripe experience, undaunted faith, and Christ-like spirit make his sermons most helpful, while his private counsels are sought by old and young.

The "Playground" (informal kindergarten) and the various classes and clubs have been continued.

Mr. Ii, formerly principal of the girls' school, has become evangelist in the eastern part of the field (Tajima); a new man has just

been placed in Kurayoshi in the west; and another man is in Tottori and works in the nearer places.

EDUCATIONAL WORK.

The Doshisha.

Hon. K. Kataoka was inaugurated President last June; he has made frequent visits to the school and has been of much help to it, but he is still needed as Speaker in the Imperial Diet* and cannot yet give his full strength to the school. The Directors in their annual meeting this spring found again all obligations met and a small surplus, but this has been possible only by keeping the school at a lower grade than in the time of Dr. Neesima. The great problem before the Directors is the restoration of the special departments, and thus the raising of the grade of the whole school, and it is here that the financial problem is felt most severely. It has been found necessary to discontinue from the end of this term even the higher courses already in operation, but in their place a new higher course in English will be opened. The school must make its English work strong; next to its high moral and spiritual tone its distinguishing feature must be a well equipped and well administered English department. In Mr. Warren's absence during the past year the chief work in this department has fallen on Mr. Lombard, who has taken both the lowest and the highest classes and has also given special help to the instructors of the lowest class. Mr. Dunning and Mr. Knipp have shared in the work.

In the Theological Department the new course of study has been put in operation. The preparatory class has studied Psychology, Logic, Ethics and History of Philosophy with Mr. Hino, and has had Topical Bible study with Mr. Learned. The three higher classes united have had Systematic Theology with Dean Albrecht, Biblical Theology with Mr. Learned, and Psychology and Philosophy with Mr. Hino. Mr. Cary has conducted a weekly exercise in preaching, and Mr. Davis has given a course of lectures in Evangelistics. Three students graduate at

* He has recently resigned the speakership, but on political grounds. It is not clear that the exigency which in his judgment compelled his resignation, not yet (June 12th) accepted, will admit of his retirement from political life.

the end of this term, and one finishes his partial course; all four are promising young men. One urgent need is that of books for the library, $40. a year being all it is allowed at present! Besides Dr. Hall's lectures, four of which were delivered in the chapel, and besides addresses to the Theological students by him and by Dr. Pentecost, helpful courses of lectures have been given this spring by Mr. Gulick on "Evolution and Christian Thought" and By Rev. Mr. Harada on "The Christian Church and Ministry in Present Japan."

The spiritual life of the school has deepened during the year. 28 young men and 15 young women have been received to the church. The plan of frequently inviting some of the leading pastors of the vicinity for preaching and for other work with the students has proved quite efficient. The Young Men's Christian Association of the school is also more active than before in personal work among the students, and it has been given the use of a room in the Theological Hall.

The number of pupils in comparison with last year is as follows:

	May, 1902.	May, 1903.
Ordinary School	301	333
Higher School	5	13
Theological School	16	16

Of 156 applicants for admission this spring only 109 were received. The number of Japanese teachers is 24.

The school year, except perhaps the Theological Department, will hereafter close in March.

The Girls' School has been happy in securing Rev. Y. Chiba as Dean. The corps of lady teachers remains the same as last year, though each of them has received flattering invitations to other positions at advanced salary. A comparison of their salaries with those of several other schools shows that our teachers receive from twenty-five to fifty per cent less than is paid in other schools.

The advance in the number of students, 120 girls having been enrolled, the overcoming habits of lax discipline, a more through grading of the classes, real intellectual growth and increasing spiritual life and consecration among teachers and pupils have been beyond our best hopes. Fifteen girls have been baptised during the year, and now all the pupils in the three higher classes are Christians. The coming of Miss Seki, who after seven years of evangelistic work has returned to

the school as Bible worker, has been of the greatest help in meeting the more than seventy non-Christian girls who have entered the school during the year.

The health of the girls has been better, a result of the gymnastic work, the tennis courts, and the Japanese fencing, a place for the latter having been provided largely by a generous gift from General and Mrs. Woodford. In November Miss Hidaka, one of the Higher Course pupils, took the Government examination in Japanese classics with brilliant success.

Two girls will be graduated from the Higher Course at the end of the present term, and five from the Regular Course. At the same time will be celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the graduation of the first class. During these years 124 girls have graduated from the school, and the society of graduates and non-graduates numbers 163. The value of this society in conserving the influences of the school, keeping the girls in touch with its advancing life and in uplifting their lives, grows with the passing years. More than one hundred of the graduates are married, nineteen of them to pastors and twenty to teachers, and twenty-two of those unmarried are themselves teachers.

Kobe College.

The school year has been made to conform to that of Japanese schools in closing in March, in consequence of which the number of students in the spring term is somewhat less than it has been of late years, namely, 170. The college has been strict in requirements for entrance examinations, arranging the dates so that students should not take them after failing to pass the entrance examinations at the Government schools. The price of tuition and board has been raised from *yen*, 5.50 to *yen*, 6.50 a month. Changes have been made in the plan of the college course which render it more flexible and better adapted to the needs of the students.

The whole number of pupils enrolled during the last school year was 230. More than forty have entered this term. All of the twelve girls graduated from the academic course last June, as well as the one who finished the college course, were Christians, and five of them have been in direct Christian work during the year. In March of this year eighteen graduated from the academic course, the largest class for nine

years, and the largest but two in the history of the school; at the same time one graduated from the college course.

The interest in physical exercise has much increased. Basket ball has been introduced and is played with much vigor and enthusiasm, not to speak of tennis, tether-tennis, and croquet, and those of the teachers who have put much time and strength into this work have reason to be gratified with the result. There is now a school physician with regular office hours, a decided improvement on the old plan of sending the girls out to a hospital for treatment.

A new teacher of the Japanese language was secured last summer, Mr. T. Kimura; Mrs. Sakata, a former teacher, has consented to rejoin the faculty during her husband's absence in America; Mr. Yamanouchi returned in September refreshed by his furlough.

The standard of scholarship in all departments has been kept high and the process of character building has gone on steadily. The Sunday school work has prospered, two neighborhood Sunday schools being carried on entirely by the students under the supervision and normal training of Mrs. Stanford. On a recent Sunday evening, reports were given from nine or ten Sunday schools in which teachers or pupils from the college were working; most of the teachers and 25 of the pupils are engaged in this work. Although only twelve girls have united with the church during the year, there has been a good spiritual tone, and a steady interest on the part of many who are not yet professed Christians. Not quite fifty are church members, but as many more have expressed a determination to live a Christian life. A series of meetings by Mr. Kimura brought many to a decision, and Mr. Harada, for whom we are yearly more thankful, has followed up this work by a number of special meetings.

Baikwa Girls' School.

Mr. Miyake, who had for ten or more years given much time and thought to this school as its Principal, fell asleep last August, and in February Mr. Osada, the head of the Home Missionary Society and pastor of Tenma church, consented to take the place, to the great joy of all concerned, a joy made all the greater by the fact that his wife was one of the first class to graduate from the school. Mr. Ninomiya, who came to the school as Treasurer from the pastorate of the Kishiwada church, has been a constant Christian force.

The Japanese course of study has been changed so that the academic course covers five years and the preparatory two. Graduates of this school enter the Tokyo Woman's University without examination. The study of the Bible has been put on the same basis as the other studies.

Miss Egashira is now the head teacher, and she is a strong, steady, and helpful one for the girls. Not for years has the undercurrent in the school been so satisfactory, and it is largely due to her work. The Sunday afternoon service is a Christian Endeavor meeting with which all the older girls are connected, and they have grown in Bible knowledge and real understanding of the truth. In connection with it is a Junior Department consisting of many of the younger girls, which is most flourishing. Their work for six months or more has been to commit to memory a Life of Christ from the Gospels. These meetings have been most enthusiastic and they have given a sum of money which has been a material help to a poor woman.

Six girls graduated from the regular course this spring, and over eighty entered the new class, making the total number at present about one hundred and seventy.

WOMAN'S EVANGELISTIC SCHOOL.

Nine regular pupils and two day pupils have been in the school through the year, and also there were three old graduates, helpers in the work who came back for a few weeks of rest and refreshment of mind and body. Five women graduated at the end of May, and their places of work are all settled, as well as those of the four second year women who go out five months. One month has been added to the term of study making it seven months, instead of the five of the early years of the school, and this has been found to be a great help in getting through the work of the year. At least six women have been getting experience in Sunday school teaching, and they have given one afternoon a week to practical work with the churches.

Mr. Takahashi, the Akaska pastor, and Mr. Nakai, formerly of Sapporo have continued to teach several hours a week; Miss Tsuji, a

graduate of Kobe College, has had charge of the music; a fine drawing teacher was secured in Mr. Ogihara; and Mrs. Maeda, one of the first graduates, has been the efficient matron.

MAEBASHI GIRLS' SCHOOL.

During the year an addition costing eleven hundred *yen* has been made to this school, providing more recitation rooms and two rooms for the lady teachers. This money was raised almost entirely from Japanese sources, mostly by the personal solicitations of Mr. Hori.

Fourteen graduated this year (three of them from the sewing department) of whom seven were Christians Fifty-seven entered, making the whole number of pupils 105, and many applications have been refused for lack of room. Every year brings pupils of a higher degree of ability than before, and this is especially true of the present class, which is also the largest in the history of the school.

KINDERGARTEN WORK.

Three kindergartens are carried on in connection with the mission besides the one connected with the Glory Training School in Kobe, namely: in Kyoto, the Airin under care of Mrs. Gordon and the Imadegawa under care of Mrs. Learned, and one in Maebashi under the care of Miss Griswold. All three report a prosperous year, both in the work for the little ones and in that for the mothers. Those connected with this work are enthusiastic over the opportunities which it gives them for getting access to the homes of the parents. One of the kindergartens in Kyoto was the only private kindergarten invited to make an exhibit at the Exhibition of Educational material and methods in Kyoto this spring.

In the Training School the year has been a propitious one so far as numbers and work are concerned. The pupils have reached a higher number than at any time since the first year, and are far and away ahead of the first class in mental attainment and general culture. Of the nine pupils five belong to Congregational ranks and are supported;

the others are self-supporting. In the fall the home for the pupils was repaired, and a house next door was rented to make room for the increase of students. Miss Howe's piano, books, and manuscripts have been taken to the kindergarten and prove invaluable there. An exhibit of books and photographs has been sent to the Osaka Exhibition, the books being copied for the purpose so far as they had not been printed. They have been translated from standard works and are not elsewhere obtainable. The number of applications for the kindergarten was never so large, there being 150 already on the waiting list for next April.

But the school is very greatly embarrassed and hampered by the lack of proper equipment and sufficient funds. Several years ago a visitor experienced in such work expressed surprise that the kindergarten and training school could be carried on with so small an appropriation, and since then the numbers have increased with increasing needs, the buildings have grown shabier and more difficult to adapt to the two kinds of work, the lack of teachers has put increasing burdens on those connected with the work, and still its friends plead in vain for sufficient means to provide a respectable plant, employ sufficient teachers and meet the ever increasing demands for general expenditure. It can easily be believed that buildings put up fourteen years ago at the small expenditure of $900. are not now sufficient for a training school and a large kindergarten, and it has been impossible to keep them in good repair. There is no such thing as standing still; the work must either advance or fall behind; and thus the missionary in charge has had to shoulder the deficit in the finances of the school in addition to all her other burdens.

PUBLICATION WORK.

The publication and distribution of the books and tracts published by the mission continues to be satisfactorily done through the Keiseisha. As most of the sales were made to book dealers, the Keiseisha has been content until recently with a somewhat quiet location; but last December it was thought best to remove to the main thoroughfare of the Kyobashi district. In order to make this removal possible the sum of *yen*, 400. was loaned to the Keiseisha for two years, and in lieu of interest, free storage is

given to the Mission's stock of books and tracts. The sales for the year amounted to 21,832 copies of books and tracts, covering 1,468,326 pages. Fluctuations in the demand for gift tracts make such figures unsatisfactory as a measure of the success of the publication department. Looking only at books purchased by the Japanese public, there is a decline of about ten per cent. as compared with the preceding year, but an improvement over the year before that. The expense incurred for the general publication work above receipts was $111.04, which stands for an increase of stock.

The old hymn-book is still in demand, and something over 3,600 copies were sold in 1902.

The Fukuin Soshi, our Theological Monthly, maintains its circulation of about 450 copies. It was hoped that it might be merged in a union periodical, but the measures now being taken by the Presbyterians for publishing a monthly of their own covering much the same ground, destrys this hope for the present. Apparently their purpose is to secure an organ for a more conservative theology than is current in the Congregational churches of the United States.

The mission's share of the expense of publishing the union Sunday school helps for 1902 was $4.92 as compared with $123.17 in the previous year, the decline being due partly to a change in the method of apportionment of the cost, partly to a rise of the price, and partly to increased sales.

Mission News has a circulation of rather over 600 copies.

The paper Morning Light, published in Kobe for the rank and file of church members and inquirers, was printed to the extent of 38,400 copies in 1902. A booklet on the origen of the Red Cross Society and scientific nursing written and published by a member of the mission in Kobe has sold to the extent of 60,000 copies.

The Christian World, the organ of the Kumiai Churches, published in Osaka under the editorial care of the Rev. T. Harada, has a circulation of about 2,000.

Medical Work

has been continued, as usual, by Dr. Taylor.

ONE PHASE OF THE EDUCATIONAL WORK

for young women in Japan must be considered in any plans for it, and that is the tremendous advance which the Japanese Government has made within the last six years in providing for the education of its girls. A few years ago it could be said that the country did practically nothing for them beyond the primary grades. Now there are about eighty finely equipped schools of high-school grade for girls, established by Government and one hundred and twenty private schools of similar character with from two to four hundred girls in each school. Money is used lavishly for buildings and equipment. The high school for girls in Kobe cost *yen*, 20,000. for buildings alone, and the girls' normal school in Osaka cost *yen*, 130,000. for its buildings. In all these schools they are supplying fine upright and grand pianos and other things to match. If mission work on educational lines is to hold its own it will be forced to have a satisfactory equipment and to maintain its reputation for intellectual as well as moral results.

STATISTICS, JANUARY 1ST, 1903.

Number of churches	78
Independent churches	36
Unorganised congregations	27
Pastors	48
Evangelists	37
Church Members:—	
Men	5,538
Women	5,155
Total	10,693
Net loss	163
Additions on confession in 1902	826
Decrease from 1901	54
Deaths in 1902	161
Dropped in 1902	470
Sunday schools, average attendance	4,728
Total contributions	*yen* 42,730
Increase of contributions over 1901	8,941
Contributed for church expenses	23,346
,, to the Missionary Society	2,911
,, for church buildings	7,651
Value of church property	...135,106

THE ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARIES.

An interesting feature of the year has been the incorporation of members of the mission under the above name as a body corporate under the laws of Japan, with power to hold real estate for the mission, by which many serious embarrassments are removed. This corporation has taken over.

in Kobe:
- the land of Kobe College
  (the buildings are now being transferred to it);
- the land and dwelling known as No. 59;
- some small bits of land connected with No. 22 and No. 53.;

in Osaka:
- The land and dwelling occupied by the ladies connected with the Baikwa School;

in Kyoto:
- (on behalf of Mrs. Gordon)
- the land occupied by the new Airin kindergarten;

in Okayama:
- The land and dwelling occupied by Mr. Pettee;
- the land and house occupied by Miss Wainwright and the Hokubu Chapel;
- the land and building used by Miss Adams's school for poor children;

in Matsuyama:
- the mission house;

in Maebashi:
- the land and building of the kindergarten;

in Niigata:
- the two mission houses and the land ocupied by one of them.

EVANGELISTIC WORK IN ECHIGO.

I.—Dr. Franson's Visit.

Dr. Franson of the Scandinavian Alliance Mission, who is at present engaged in general evangelistic work in Japan, has been spending eight days with us in Echigo, visiting all of our principal stations having given fifteen addresses, and conducted no less than twelve inquiry meetings.

Dr. Franson has one of the finest interpreters I have ever heard,—a Mr. Matsuno, who for a time had charge of the Japanese Y. M. C. A. in Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Matsuno went to America for the purpose of study, with the hope that this might prove a means of political preferment upon his return to Japan, but being converted while in the United States, he has since devoted himself entirely to work for Christ. He is the editor of the Christian Herald, a small Japanese magazine published in Tokyo, but gives his chief time and strength to work among the very poor of that city. Being in perfect sympathy with Dr. Franson's one purpose of reaching and saving souls, he is especially well fitted for this kind of evangelistic work. This was most noticeable in the "after-meetings," where in conversation and in prayer his interpretation, sentence by sentence, was so genuine and sympathetic, and such a perfect echo of thought and tone and gesture, that it seemed as if Dr. Franson was speaking face to face and heart to with each individual with no medium other than the Holy Spirit. I had never before heard prayer interpreted, but Mr. Matsuno's ability to do this with wonderful spiritual effect was not only a great help in the dealing with individual seekers, but also a great blessing to our Christians, in teaching them how to pray and in giving them examples of simple, heartfelt "*talking with God.*"

The first meeting was on Sunday afternoon at the hotel in Kashiwazaki, when about twenty of the Christians and enquirers listened to Dr. Franson's address, and five of the latter expressed their determination to lead a Christian life. Among these converts, two women were found to be so well grounded in the faith that at their request they received immediate baptism.

In the evening a large theater-meeting was held at which Mr. Takano, manager of the Japan Oil Company and an earnest Christian, presided. Mr. Takano, Mr. Newell, and Dr. Franson were the speakers. In the after-meeting that followed five of the Middle School students gave their hearts to Christ. Two of the teachers in this school took the same step the next morning after conversation and prayer with Dr. Franson.

At Nagaoka, Dr. Franson's plans for purely evangelistic meetings were somewhat interfered with from the fact that leading citizens had widely advertised him as a noted traveller, and scholar, and had arranged for special meetings in his honor. On Monday evening he was asked to speak to an audience of five hundred at the high primary school, on the subject of his world-wide travels. The Principal of the new High School for Girls presided at this meeting, and the Mayor and many prominent officials were present. Dr. Franson told them something of his experiences in many lands while engaged in evangelistic work, and also improved the opportunity to present the gospel message to this large audience.

On Tuesday he was invited to the speak to the students of the Middle School and gave them a strictly religious address, which was well received. In the evening he was tendered a reception and banquet, by some fifty of the leading citizens. Following this there was a meeting at the church, which resulted in several conversions. As at Kashiwazaki, so here at Nagaoka, two of the teachers of the Middle School, including the Head Teacher, were numbered among the converts.

At the little chapel in Shibata there was a large audience that overflowed into yard and garden in front and rear. The larger part of this audience consisted of students from the Middle School in which there are two or three Christian teachers and some thirty students who are either Christians or are studying the Bible. Three of these students at this meeting came to a full decision to serve Christ. Another young man who had been at the meeting came late that night to the evangelist's house, saying that although in the meeting he had given no sign of his interest, he afterwards found that he could not rest until he had found Christ. The next morning several young men came to the hotel where we were staying, and after an hour spent in conversation and prayer one who had been an enquirer for a long time came to a definite decision.

At Nakajo Dr. Franson spoke in the afternoon to a select audience of about forty of the most influential people of the town. At the close of his address opportunity for asking questions was improved by the audience in a way that showed that deep interest had been aroused. A theater had been hired for the evening meeting and fully four hundred people gathered to listen to the gospel. Mr. Omiya, one of our Niigata workers, spoke first on "Why I am a Christian," and Dr. Franson followed. The after-meeting was held on the stage of the theater after the audience had been dismissed,—and surely such a scene as followed was never before presented on that stage. At least twenty young men, both by the raising of the hand and by earnest prayer for the forgiveness of their sins declared their purpose to become followers of Christ. This wonderful result may be attributed not to the addresses of the evening alone, but perhaps chiefly to the seed-sowing of the evangelist and to the faithful work done in his Bible classes.

On Friday Dr. Franson reached Niigata and spoke that evening at our Furumachi chapel, and on Saturday night at the Shima preaching-place. Over five-hundred tracts were given out to those who came and went or stood outside, at these two meetings. At Shima there were several conversions. On Saturday afternoon, Dr. Franson addressed a largely attended Women's Meeting in *Hakusan* Park, and in the inquiry meeting which followed seven or eight definitely decided for the Christian life. On Sunday Dr. Franson's work in Echigo closed with three meetings at the Niigata Church. At the afternoon and evening sessions the building was crowded, and in the after-meetings held there were six more conversions, including that of one prominent official who has for a long time been an earnest student of the Bible.

Dr. Franson's special *forte* as an evangelist seems to be that of removing doubts, and bringing to a definite decision those who have already become interested in Christianity. He is not satisfied with persuading men to raise the hand or give their names in indication of their decision, but from this first step leads them on to pray individually for the forgiveness of their sins, and when at last the assurance of salvation has come, he asks each one to offer public prayer of thanksgiving for this. More than fifty have thus started in the Christian life as a result of these meetings, and it is in this way especially that he has rendered us a great service in Echigo, and for this we all rejoice and thank God.

II.—New Life at Nakajo.

Mrs. Curtis and I have recently spent five days at Nakajo in the northern part of this province where we saw many encouraging signs of new spiritual life and growth.

The church at Nakajo is the oldest in Echigo, having been organised by Dr. Palm in the early days of mission work in this region, and transferred to the care of our Mission in 1886. For many years it was in a flourishing condition; then followed a period of discouragement and decline and a falling away on the part of the members that continued until the church was practically defunct.

Three years ago Mr. Higuchi began work there as an evangelist, and through his efforts, ably supplemented by those of his wife who is a graduate of the Kobe Bible Training School, a great change has taken place in both the church and the community. The church has taken on a new lease of life, and the former opposition to Christianity in the place has almost entirely disappeared.

On Sunday, May 17th, I preached to an audience that filled the little chapel, baptised four converts that were received into the church, and administered the Lord's Supper. The date is worth recording as a red-letter day in the history of this church, as it was the first time the Communion had been observed for many years, and the first time in ten years that anyone had united with the church.

The joy that marked this Communion Sunday was clouded by the sight of a Buddhist funeral passing by the church, where he whose body was being borne to the grave had once been a loved and honored member, the "father of the church" one of the earliest Christians in the place and for many years a most faithful witness for Christ. But some years ago he lost his faith, fell into sin, and continued in the sinful life until brought to his death-bed by a fatal disease. After the funeral we learned that when dying he had called repeatedly for Mr. Higuchi, the pastor of the church, and although this request was denied him by those around him, yet, at the end it is said that he repented of his sin and expressed the hope that God would have mercy on him and save him.

This death-bed repentance was some comfort to those who had long been praying for this man's return to God, but nevertheless there were the saddening facts that the closing years of his life had been worse than wasted, that he had led many astray and nearly wrecked the

church, and had been one of the chief hindrances to all attempts to revive it.

Of forty-nine members that once belonged to this church, only five have died the natural death of the body, but twenty-nine, I am told, have died a spiritual death,—a sad chapter in the history of the church, but we believe that chapter is now closed and that a new one is now opening that will record the reclaiming of some that have wandered, and an ingathering of many new converts thoroughly grounded in the faith, as the result of Mr. and Mrs. Higuchi's work. There are many things that indicate that their influence is felt throughout the town and in the villages round about:—

When they first came to Nakajo they were often the only ones that went to the chapel for the Sabbath service; now the room is often filled, and the average attendance for the past year has been twenty-five;

Hitherto there has been but one service on the Sabbath, now at the request of the people themselves two preaching services are held;

Bible classes are held several nights in the week, attended by over fifty earnest enquirers;

A Sunday-school has been built up to an average attendance of sixty, and in some respects it is one of the best I have seen in Japan; good order, attentive listening, reverent kneeling at the benches during prayer, and most excellent teaching are some of the good points noticeable;

In the Men's Social Club of the town the drinking of sake, and the telling of foolish or indecent stories, have been stopped through Mr. Higuchi's personal influence and his efforts to provide helpful and interesting entertainment;

A sentiment distinctly favorable to Christianity seems to prevail among the better class of citizens, and is daily growing in strength; Many outsiders are contributing something to the expenses of the church.

While in Nakajo we had the rare privilege of being entertained in a Japanese home, not as guests to be feasted, but as members of the family sharing in their everyday life. Mr. and Mrs. Higuchi opened their hearts and their home and took us in with such cordial good will that every moment of our stay was a delight.

The advantage that this gave us in coming into touch with the

people, and in seeing the work that centers in their home was very great. It was exceedingly interesting to see how freely all classes are welcomed to that home, how many come, and, because of the welcome and help received, continue to come until they are drawn into Bible classes and the study of Christian truth, and so, one by one, become identified with the followers of Christ. There we met men of wealth and of prominent position—physicians, teachers, officials—and there we met mechanics, farm-hands, and day-laborers. There we met and talked with many who would not have visited us at the hotel, and there we learned, as we could have learned in no other way, of the hold that our workers are getting on the people, and the splendid results they are achieving, results that do not appear in formal statistics, and things that they would never have thought of mentioning themselves.

We return from this first touring experience with joy for what we have seen and with greater hope and courage for future work.

William L. Curtis.

THE SHIKOKU BUKWAI.

The Annual Meeting of the churches of Shikoku was held this year in Uwajima, April 3-6 and proved most satisfactory and helpful. Delegates were present from each place save two, and Mr. Sugita, representing the Kumiai Churches, came down from Osaka. The reports of the work and the spirit of the various places were exceedingly hopeful, the most so since my connection with the Association (five years). Over 100 "seekers" are reported on the lists of these eight places, and the children in the Sunday schools are over 600. Three places have entirely self-supporting churches, Imabari, Matsuyama, and Tosa, whose resident membership is a little over 100 and their total contributions for the year amounted to *yen*, 1,278, being an average of over *yen*, 3.00 per member. The five places assisted by the Mission have a resident membership of about sixty members, who raised *yen*, 180 or, 3.00 per member

The special characteristic of this year's meeting was the series of three full sessions devoted to the study of Sunday school methods. Mr. Mito, Pastor of the Methodist Church in Uwajima, has given the subject considerable study and repeated for our benefit two valuable lectures

which he had delivered some months before at a Methodist S. S. Conference. Mr. Sugita, Mr. Okamoto, and the writer also gave prepared lectures on the topic. In the free conference session many took part and the suggestions were exceedingly valuable.

The evenings were utilised for preaching services which were well attended. The sermons seemed to me of more than usual power and excellence, such topics being handled as Practical Religion; The Need of Religion; Important Elements of Religion; Life the Characteristic of True Religion; Love the Characteristic of a True Christian; and The Problem of Evil. The Sabath morning preaching, baptismal, and communion service was particularly impressive. Eight persons received baptism (three couples) and two infants were consecrated to the Lord (not baptised), one of them the son of the pastor Mr. Matsumoto, and the other the son of one of the couples that had just received baptism.

The faithful consecrated work of Miss Judson and Mr. Matsumoto is bringing forth a rich harvest in this isolated field. The rule of Matsuyama Station that all candidates for baptism must ordinarily have a six months period of preparation has been well carried out here with excellent results and fine prospects. I think the churches would all profit by the adoption of such a rule. At the present rate Uwajima will become a self-supporting church in three or four years.

Among the baptised was the wife of a former *guncho* (district head-man) now the president of a bank, who is himself already an earnest seeker, studying the Bible and taking part in prayer meetings. He says that he shall wish to apply for baptism not very long hence. I had an interesting interview with one of the leading lawyers of this Prefecture, who is the Vice Chairman of the Prefectural Assembly. He has long been hearing more or less of Christianity and for two or three years has read the Bible off and on. Last December he decided to give up all saké drinking. He soon found that he had much spare time on his hands which formerly had been lost over his cups. He decided to make a serious study of Christianity. He borrowed a commentary on the four Gospels, quite a portly volume; he found he was able to give it three hours each day, and finished it in twenty days, and to his surprise his head was clear all the time and study was a pleasure. He has decided to read the whole Bible carefully. In the course of our conversation it came out that he held some seriously mistaken views regarding Christianity, especially with reference to its relation to the national life, which I was glad to have the

opportunity to correct. Should he discover his Saviour and become a genuine Christian, his social standing would give him an opportunity to do a great work for Christ in his city.

All the workers returned from this annual meeting with renewed zeal and consecration.

SIDNEY L. GULICK.

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The following action was taken at the Annual Meeting of the Japan Mission of the American Board in July, 1902.

VOTED:—That the members of the Mission be recommended to insure their personal property with the Meiji Fire Insurance Company.

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